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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

March 25, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

**RE: Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Application for Site Certification**

Dear Governor Inslee:

I write today on behalf of the people of the 4th Congressional District to express significant concerns with the Application for Site Certification (ASC) for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm (Project) in Benton County.

It has been brought to my attention that the applicant, Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC, a fully-owned subsidiary of Scout Clean Energy LLC, submitted their ASC directly to the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. In doing so, they have effectively bypassed the local government and limited the amount of direct involvement my constituents have regarding the consideration of a project that is being planned in their backyard.

Residents in the Tri-Cities have raised substantive concerns with the proposed Project, including the fact that local utilities have already expressed no need or desire to take on new wind generation in their portfolios. Central Washington is proud of our clean energy leadership. From our clean, renewable hydroelectric generation and hosting the Pacific Northwest's only nuclear generation station – a carbon-free source of baseload power – to being home to the state's largest solar farm, we are at the forefront of an all-of-the-above clean energy deployment strategy. This includes existing wind and biomass sources of energy production.

Meanwhile, the scientists in our community researching grid storage capabilities at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory are leading the nation – and the world – in next-generation energy storage technology research and development. All of these efforts demonstrate a comprehensive and concerted effort to continue building upon our region's energy leadership and dominance – not for show or for symbolism or because it feels good for others outside our region, but because they are the right solutions for a secure energy future.

Additionally, the scale of this proposed Project would place a colossal impact on our natural landscape. We are blessed with a profoundly unique geologic history, shaped and contoured by

the great Ice Age Floods. Our region's defining characteristics include our rolling hills, steep slopes, and majestic skyline views including Mounts Adams, Rainier, and Hood. Many are rightly concerned about the impacts of placing hundreds of structures the size of the Space Needle across our skylines. Their concerns must not be ignored.

These facets of our environment not only contribute to our rural and natural character, but they also greatly drive Central Washington's economic development and tourism sector – particularly in light of our world-class wine industry. According to Visit Tri-Cities, in 2019, tourism generated more than \$560 million and created more than 6,300 jobs in Benton and Franklin counties. Before the pandemic, the Tri-Cities' regional economy was the fastest growing in the state due, in part, to our thriving local business sector and the good-paying jobs that attract families and workers from across the country. As our local businesses and economies recover from the impacts of the pandemic, we should continue to encourage long-term investments and lasting job creation in our communities.

In our nation's capital, I work to ensure the federal government listens to the voices of local communities in its decision-making. The same effort must apply here to our state government. Upon hearing the concerns of residents in the Tri-Cities region, I respectfully request that you give due consideration to all parties involved in this Project and ensure the voices of the local communities who would be most impacted are listened to by our state officials.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

cc: Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council